1.7 CONCLUTION

Hydnocarpus is an underexploited genus in Kerala. Presently the genus is under threat due to depletion in population from its natural habitat. The present study has brought to light the agricultural, medicinal, religious and ecological values of the genus in Kerala. The genus was identified as a potent source of many phytochemical compounds. However, further studies are needed for the structural elucidation of these compounds and also for screening their biological activities in cell lines and animal models. Considering the immense scope for bioprospecting of the genus and the threat it faces, urgent measures are required to conserve the genus *Hydnocarpus* in Kerala. The data generated through the present study can be taken as a baseline data for the successful implementation of the conservation strategies.

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